

Records

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This profile does not reflect developments since 12 December 2006.

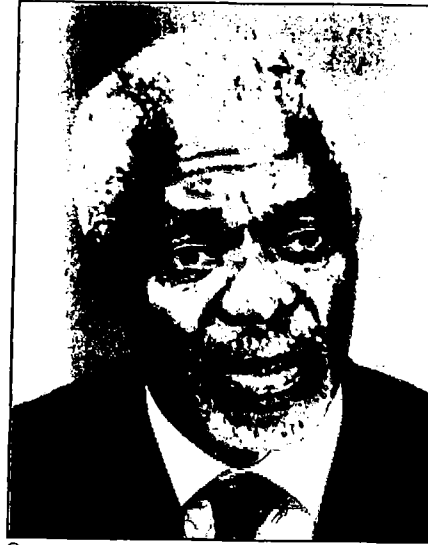
Kofi ANNAN

(Phonetic: AN-en)

GHANA

UN Secretary General (since 1997)

Addressed as: Mr. Secretary General



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During the last few months of his 10th and final year as UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan has been focusing on securing a positive and lasting legacy on issues such as nuclear showdowns and regional crises, particularly Darfur. He prioritized diplomatic efforts in Africa and the Middle East, promoting peace, and reforming the UN. Annan has served in the UN for more than 40 years—virtually all of his working life—and is the first secretary general elected from within the UN's staff.

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His most recent actions, in addition to statements made by his advisers, point to Annan's deep emotional and intellectual investment in the UN and his wish to retire in a way that honors his sacrifices and accomplishments.

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Darfur: Last Chance To Secure Legacy

Annan has stated repeatedly in public that Darfur is a priority for him, and

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Annan is focused on establishing the basis for a solution before the end of his term.

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Annan publicly encouraged Khartoum to agree to UN support packages for the African Union Mission in Sudan as an alternative to the UN force outlined in UNSC Resolution 1706, and he also has pressured the UN Human Rights Council to respond to the Darfur crisis. Annan acknowledges that the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations is struggling in Darfur.

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More of a Statesman, Less of a Secretary

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Annan during 2006 has pursued his diplomatic duties and left much of the administrative work to Deputy Secretary General Mark Malloch Brown and other executive staff members. Annan has remained engaged on the Iranian nuclear situation.

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The Secretary General has traveled extensively—particularly to Africa and the Middle East. For instance, he was personally involved in the UN's response to the crisis between Israel and Lebanon, having visited states throughout the region in August and September 2006. During the crisis, Annan publicly pressured the UNSC to either act or face reduced legitimacy, according to press.

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Annan has followed through on reforms agreed on at the World Summit in September 2005 by overseeing the creation of the new Peacebuilding Commission and the revamped Human Rights Council. He has addressed criticism of his management practices by working to improve transparency and accountability in the operation of the UN, and in March 2006 he submitted management reform recommendations to member states. Annan also has called on member states to uphold pledges they made in September 2005. He cited Darfur as a prime example of the UN's

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LP 06-107947

12 December 2006

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UN Career Highlights

1962	Administrative and budget official, WHO.
1987-90	Assistant secretary general for human resources and security coordinator.
1990-92	Assistant secretary general for program planning, budget, and finance, and controller.
1992-93	Assistant secretary general for peacekeeping operations.
1993-97	Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations.

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“responsibility to protect,” a phrase and concept endorsed at the World Summit that calls on the UN to act decisively—including with military action if necessary—to counter cases of genocide or gross abuses of human rights.

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Dealing With Annan

Annan is an open and attentive interlocutor who stands up for what he believes and is no pushover,

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a facilitator who uses exquisite tact and courteous formality with foreign leaders.

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Annan says he tackles negotiations with concentration, attentiveness, and creativity, according to a press interview.

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Straightforward approaches work well with Annan, but he does not respond favorably to relentless questioning by US officials, according to press reports.

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Fiercely protective of the UN's—and his own—reputation, Annan has occasionally blamed UN member states, including countries on the UNSC, for UN shortcomings, according to press reports. In February 2006 he responded to a journalist's comment that the UN was failing in Darfur by noting that the UN Secretariat does not have troops or resources and that it is only as strong as its member states. Annan remains cautious about overextending UN peacekeeping by continuing to reevaluate resources and organization to ensure the UN can do a quality job.

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Personal Data

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Annan was born on 8 April 1938 near Kumasi in southern Ghana. As a child he attended the country's oldest and most prestigious boarding school, where he won acclaim as a track-and-field star. Annan earned a degree in economics from Macalester College in Minnesota in 1961. He attended the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva in 1962, and in 1971 he earned a master's degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Annan enjoys hiking and dancing, according to press reports. He travels almost a third of every year. He has a daughter, Ama, and a son, Kojo, from his first marriage.

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Annan in 1984 married his second wife, Nane Lagergren, who is a lawyer and an artist. Open-source reporting suggests that the couple has discussed settling in Ghana after his retirement. Annan speaks excellent English and French as well as several African languages, including Twi and Fante.

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